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1202

AVENGERS
The Children's Crusade

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JULY 2010

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Be-Witched, Bothered, and Bewildered

Ever since the end of ***House of M,*** Marvel readers have wondered about the Scarlet Witch's final fate. Apparently, they're not the *only* ones who've been wondering. The Young Avengers are also very curious as to just where Wanda ended up... and with good reason.

Wiccan's reality-altering powers have continued to develop, ultimately rivalling those of the Scarlet Witch herself. This inspires Wiccan to set out on a quest to find the former Avenger—a quest that pits him against both the Avengers and the Young Avengers... a quest that *Allan Heinberg and Jim Cheung* are about to chronicle in the nine-issue ***Avengers: Children's Crusade.***

"We're looking for the Scarlet Witch, essentially," Heinberg said. "We're picking up the thread that was left at the end of ***House of M,*** and was then picked up in ***X-Men: Endangered Species***. We're continuing that story, whether she's able to rejoin the Marvel Universe."

Have no doubts—she *will* be found, according to executive editor *Tom Brevoort*. "We are going to find her in this; she will actually be coming back in some way, shape, or form in ***Avengers: Children's Crusade***. Her whereabouts and all the issues that revolve around her will form the backbone of this entire story. This isn't a trick or a ploy, or someone else dressed up in Scarlet Witch's clothes—this will be the actual, genuine Wanda."

Avengers: Children's Crusade reunites Heinberg and Cheung, the creators responsible for the fan-favorite ***Young Avengers.*** "It feels very much like we picked up where we left off creatively," Heinberg said. If anything, he feels that Cheung has gotten better since his ***Young Avengers*** run. "Every page looks better than the last, this is the best work I've seen from him."

"It doesn't feel like much of a reunion because we've been working on this for two years now!" Brevoort added. To ensure that the book appears on schedule without unanticipated delays, Marvel has made ***Children's Crusade*** a bi-monthly limited series; this will give both creators more time to devote to each issue (Cheung is currently working on the fourth issue's pencil art, while Heinberg has scripted through the sixth issue already).

Where does ***Children's Crusade*** fit into the current ***Heroic Age?*** "That's a good question," Brevoort said. "We want to make sure the word gets out and people understand this, since it's inevitably going to confuse people once the book gets out. ***Children's Crusade*** is set ~~*right now*~~ in the modern, post-***Siege, Heroic Age*** Marvel Universe.

"Because we began work on this book about two years ago, we had to make the most educated guess we could as to how certain elements would shake out; one or two of those elements are in a slightly different place than we thought they would be. Specifically, Iron Man has a different suit of armor, and Steve Rogers is not in his Captain America suit, but he is here. There will be a point where all of these events will line up and sync up perfectly, but coming out of the gate, it will inevitably confuse people..." Brevoort assured that everything would be reconciled by the time the series ends in late 2011, however.

If the Scarlet Witch is returning to the Marvel Universe, where will she end up—with the Avengers, with the mutants, or somewhere else? "At this point, we're not really going to say," Brevoort said. " We're not really sure who'll 'get' her when all is said and done. At this point, we couldn't say, 'oh, she's going to end up here,' because that's one of the reasons for the nine issues we're doing," Brevoort says. "Does she have her powers? Does she have her memory? Does she have a larger agenda? Has she been pulling strings behind the Marvel Universe for months?"

If heroes are looking for Wanda, is it possible that villains are seeking her out as well? "I don't know how much we want to give out this early in the game, but there are at least *two* world-class villainous characters who are involved in the course of this series. I think one of them is relatively obvious—the other one, probably less so."

And of course, any story that involves Wanda will most certainly include her brother, Pietro, aka Quicksilver.

"One of the coolest threads that *Brian Bendis* introduced in ***House of M*** that we're picking up on is the idea of Wanda, and the power she represents, puts into question just who's a hero and who's a villain," Heinberg explained. "We hope that, at some point in this series, you end up rooting for the villains. A character like Magneto, if he's acting like a dad, and he's trying to protect his daughter—how villainous is he, really? And you've got these kids in the middle who are trying to define themselves as superheroes at a very early age. It brings the whole thing into question in a fun way."

The fact that the father of one member of the team died due to the Scarlet Witch's actions will certainly play a role in the story (Stature, whose civilian identity is Cassie Lang, is the daughter of the late Scott Lang). The differing views could fragment some of the teams, Brevoort said. "You may have two Avengers, a Young Avenger and four X-Men feeling one way, and others feeling completely differently."

What about the Vision, the Scarlet Witch's former husband? How will the new Vision feel about Wanda's return? "Absolutely there's going to be some manner of relationship or tension between Wanda and the Vision. What will Wanda's point-of-view be towards this character? That's a character she had a long-established marriage and relationship with, and the new Vision is not that person. So where do his loyalties lie? Here's a woman who at least *some* part of him was married to in the past. What does that mean for him?"

Heinberg explained that ***Avengers: Children's Crusade*** is a tale that has grown since its early days. "It's a much larger story now. So much has happened to these kids and so much has happened to the Marvel Universe that the fate of Scarlet Witch is more important to the Marvel Universe as a whole than we had originally planned." Heinberg added that it was originally envisioned as just a Young Avengers adventure, but now it has grown to include the Avengers and the X-Men as well. "And the fact that it's been a number of years since we last saw Wanda in ***House of M*** makes it seem even more special.

"The X-Men and the mutant community as a whole have been slowly gathering their forces together, in what amounts to a bunker—the last mutant refuge" Brevoort says. "That puts them in a much more interesting and extreme position and makes the stakes of her coming back much greater than it would have been had we done the story originally."

Does Heinberg view this as his "final take" on the Young Avengers? "Tom and Jim and I went into it thinking it was going to be my last time with these kids... but the more time I spent working on this, the more I realized that there are more stories I'd like to tell with them." So while there are no definite plan for a post-***Children's Crusade*** series, he doesn't think it's his "last word" on the characters.

Brevoort sees it as "absolutely crucial" that characters like the Young Avengers continue to play a prominent role in the Marvel Universe. We knew that ***Young Avengers*** under Allen would take some time to get into production... It's very easy to lose track of who characters are and why they're important." Thankfully, the Young Avengers have proven popular enough with other writers that the characters have remained a part of the Marvel Universe since Heinberg ended his initial ***Young Avengers*** series a few years ago.

Heinberg said that those Young Avengers plotlines will be a part of ***Children's Crusade*** as well. "We're picking up on where everybody else left them off; I'm not ignoring anything. Wiccan and Hulkling are still a couple, Stature and Vision are still a couple, and Hawkeye and Patriot are negotiating their coupleness."

Avengers: The Children's Crusade #1, a $3.99 comic, is scheduled for July 8th release.

by Alex Kirkland

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Superman's Action Pal, Jimmy Olsen

On their blog The Source, DC has revealed that Jimmy Olsen will star in his own co-feature beginning in ***Action Comics #893.*** The series will be written by *Nick Spencer* and illustrated by *R.B. Silva.*

"Jimmy works best as a character when you play up his fun side, when you embrace the insanity that is his life," Spencer said. "He's a ridiculous guy living in a ridiculous world, and he's determined to make the most of it. He doesn't need to be 'matured' or made more 'serious.' And he's also not, as he sometimes seems to be portrayed, an 'Aw shucks!' naiveté — Jimmy is clever, street-smart, and at times downright suave. And in this ***Action Comics*** co-feature, he'll get a real chance to show off what can he do as he deals with threats that have a decidedly post-modern, pop culture inspired-bent."

Look for Jimmy's co-feature debut in September.

Al Williamson Passes

Another one of comics' most influential talents is gone. Legendary illustrator *Al Williamson* died on June 13th at the age of 79 after a lengthy illness.

Williamson was one of the youngest artists in the EC stable, working alongside such talents as *Wally Wood, Roy G. Krenkel,* and *Frank Frazetta.* His clean, sharply delineated, ultra-realistic linework, full of energy and vitality, showed the influence of *Alex Raymond,* an artist he greatly admired.

After the collapse of EC, he worked for other companies, including Atlas (as Marvel was known in the 1950s); his art can be found in dozens of horror, Western, suspense, and science fiction titles.

In the 1960s, he took over ***Flash Gordon*** for a brief period of time (those comics have recently been collected in trade paperback); it was a dream come true, his chance to illustrate the character created by *Alex Raymond.*

In 1970, he teamed with *Archie Goodwin* to launch the ***Secret Agent X-9*** comic strip (slated for reprinting this fall from IDW). A few years later, he and Goodwin worked on the ***Star Wars*** comic strip, as well as producing striking film adaptations of ***Blade Runner*** and ***The Empire Strikes Back.***

In the 1980s, Williamson moved from pencilling to inking, working for both Marvel and DC. But Williamson's artistic vision was best defined in his pencil work, where his fluid sense of layout and design was fully revealed.

As his health declined, Williamson did less comics work—but fans of this incomparable artist have never forgotten his prodigious output, as is exemplified by the numerous artistic retrospectives that have spotlighted his artistry.

Unlike many artists whose styles seem out of date in today's market, Williamson's clean line, bold brushwork, and dynamic design have never gone out of style.

Williamson's wife, *Cori Williamson,* said in announcing the artist's death that *"beyond his remarkable accomplishments as an artist, Williamson deserves recognition as a veteran who often opened professional doors for many others starting their careers. An impressive number of comics contributors owe at least part of their success to Williamson's willingness to recommend and promote new artists and writers to his editorial contacts.*

Williamson was also an avid collector of comics and illustration art, valuing the beauty of original drawings produced for comic books and strips long before the physical art created by commercial artists was popularly appreciated. He will be fondly remembered by those you knew him for his generosity, his indefatigable sense of humor, and his great enthusiasm in sharing his love of comics, illustration, movies and music.

Al Williamson took inspiration from a legion of cartoonists, illustrators and motion pictures from the first half of the twentieth century and created works of timeless appeal—and then he passed that inspiration on to new generations of comics creators.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, a donation in Al's memory be made to either:

The Joe Kubert School
~~37 Myrtle Avenue~~
Dover, NJ 07801
Attn: Al Williamson Scholarship Fund
or
Yesteryears Day Program
2801 Wayne Street
Endwell, NY 13760

Coming Comics—Marvel in September

Mark Waid pays a return visit to the Spideyverse with "Origin of the Species," a five-parter that begins in ***Amazing Spider-Man #642.*** When Norman Osborn's baby is born, every villain on the planet wants the first ever strain of pure Goblin blood, and that's a potential threat to Spider-Man, his friends, and his family.

In *Allan Heinberg & Jim Cheung's* ***Avengers: The Children's Crusade #2,*** the Avengers, the Young Avengers, and the X-Men compete to be the first to find the Scarlet Witch. When the Young Avengers discover the secret of Wanda Maximoff's disappearance, the Avengers attempt to neutralize the Scarlet Witch before the Young Avengers can find her... but their efforts soon lead to an all-out war between the Avengers and the X-Men that only the Young Avengers can stop.

Learn the untold story of the rebirth of Valkyrie in *Bryan J.L. Glass & Phil Winslade's* ***Valkyrie*** oneshot. In ***Avengers Disassembled,*** Ragnarok claimed the lives of the Asgardians, until they were reborn along with Thor himself... but when and how did the legendary shield maiden Brunhilde return?

Duane Swierczynski & Manuel Garcia kick off their creative run beginning in ***Black Widow #6,*** which begins with the assassination of a senator—an assassination that appears to have been carried out by the Black Widow!

Witness the grand showdown between Zemo and Bucky Barnes in *Ed Brubaker & Butch Guice's* ***Captain America #610.***

SPIDER MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
WE NEED HELP! TONY STARK'S GONE MAD!!
WHAT DID HE SAY?
NOT SURE--BUT I'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT!
IRON MAN!
STAY BACK!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-24
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What does it take to be the living symbol of America... the Sentinel of Liberty... the Super-Soldier of World War II? *Karl Kesel & Mitch Breitweiser* answer that question in the four-part ***Captain America: Patriot.*** It begins in 1941, when Captain America puts on his mask and shield for the first time—and instantly inspires an entire nation, including reporter Jeff Mace, who quickly dons his own star-spangled suit and calls himself the Patriot! It's a decision that will take him from stopping stateside saboteurs... to headlining the home front heroes known as the Liberty Legion... to the most unexpected offer of all: to become the next Captain America!

For decades, Daken, the son of Wolverine, remained hidden in the shadows of the Marvel Universe, methodically plotting how he would one day dominate the world around him. And now, with his father's soul hanging in the balance, that day has come. See how he responds in ***Daken: Dark Wolverine #1*** by *Daniel Way, Marjorie Liu, & Giuseppi Camuncoli.*

The Merc with a Mouth finds himself smack dab in the middle of a fast-paced espionage adventure in ***Deadpool: Pulp #1,*** the kickoff issue of a four-parter by *Mike Benson, Adam Glass, & Laurence Campbell.*

New artist *Steve Epting* joins writer *Jonathan Hickman* for "Three," a history-making storyline that begins in ***Fantastic Four #583.*** By the time this saga is over, one of the members of the FF will fall... but who will be the FF's first fatality?

The FrankenCastle era comes to an end in ***FrankenCastle #21*** by *Rick Remender & Dan Brereton.* After his brutal struggle to kill Daken in Tokyo, the Punisher's ally Henry Russo sends Frank to the nearest remote place he can find—Monster Island. However, as his body heals, Frank's mind begins to fade into madness. Someone needs to take him down... someone named Elsa Bloodstone.

In the aftermath of ***Siege,*** Steve Rogers assesses the state of Earth's heroes in ***Heroic Age: Heroes,*** a 64-page compendium of character files that spotlights their post-Siege status.

Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four and the Avengers all star in ***Heroic Age: One Month to Live,*** a weekly five-issue miniseries. In a world of unlikely heroes, Dennis Sykes is about to become Marvel's unlikeliest. Banker by day, struggling parent by night – and unhappy about it all. But when a tragic turn of events gives Dennis a thirty-day death sentence, he discovers his accident comes with super-powers.

What is it that makes one an Avenger? That's what ***I Am An Avenger,*** a five-part series starring characters from all across the Avengers' history will attempt to answer! Featuring tales of Iron Man, Captain America, the Thing, Iron Fist, Justice, Firestar, Squirrel Girl, Nova, the Young Avengers, and more.

Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips invite readers to revisit the world of a former super-villain gone straight (more or less) in ***Incognito: Bad Influences #1,*** a sequel to last year's sleeper hit series that followed the same villain as he entered witness protection. Now a year has passed since Zack Overkill came out of witness protection to build a new life. But working for the government isn't that different from being controlled by them, and his new secret identity is becoming more trouble than it's worth... So what will Zack do when tasked with a mission that sends him on a hunt into darkest corners of the super-criminal underworld where he was raised?

The greatest super heroes of World War II blaze into action in the modern world in ***The Invaders,*** a five-part miniseries by *Alex Ross, Christos Gage, & Caio Reiss.* For the first time in decades, the original Invaders—Captain America, the Sub-Mariner, the Human Torch, Toro, the Golden Age Vision , Spitfire, Union Jack, and Steve Rogers—are alive and active at the same time! But what mysterious force has drawn them all together... and how does it relate to the darkest moment in Invaders history?

Joe Casey, Matt Camp, Tim Green, & Felix Ruiz present an original story set in movie continuity in ***Iron Man 2: Agents of SHIELD.***

Mark Millar & John Romita Jr. continue the Kick Ass melodrama in ***Kick-Ass #2: Balls to the Wall,*** a six-part series that promises to be even more over-the-top than the original series.

Marvel Super Special #1 is a 104-page black and white compendium that features orignal tales of Iron Man, Wolverine, Shang Chi, Deadpool, Dr. Strange, and Ares.

Marvel's reprinting of the 1950s Captain-Marvel-imitatitve Marvelman continues in ***Marvelman Family's Finest #3,*** which features another forty pages of adventures of Marvelman and Kid Marvelman as they take on enemy agents, mad scientists and more.

In *Zeb Wells & Leonard Kirk's* ***New Mutants #17,*** the New Mutants embark on a mission that takes them into the heart of Project Purgatory. If only the New Mutants knew that Project Purgatory has a ten mutant kill-team waiting for them...

An impressive array of top Marvel talent looks at the early days of your favorite mutants in ***Origins of Marvel Comics: X-Men #1.*** Each page is a standalone mini-origin tale of Cyclops, Wolverine, Magneto, and many others.

Frank Castle helps an old 'Nam buddy who's in trouble with a biker gang in ***Punisher Max: Hot Rods of Death,*** a oneshot by *Charlie Huston & Shawn Martinbrough* that presents the first appearance of the Punisher MAX War Wagon.

The Shadowland saga continues as Daredevil struggles with new role as leader of the Hand—and *Zeb Wells & Emma Rios* introduce a new twist to the tale in ***Shadowland: Elektra.*** Elektra Natchios had vowed to never again interfere in the life of her ex-lover, Matt Murdock. Learn what made her break her vow and return to Daredevil's side in this vital piece of the Shadowland puzzle!

The Spirit Of Vengeance charges to the front lines of the battle for the soul of New York in ***Shadowland: Ghost Rider,*** a oneshot by *Rob Williams & Clayton Crain.* Before it's all over, Ghost Rider will head for Japan and take on the might of The Hand where its power is strongest.

Howard the Duck's brain has been thoroughly scrubbed, his hard-edged humor carefully dulled down for maximum demographic acceptance. It's up to Peter Parker to set the duck straight —and that's just what he sets out to do in *Stuart Moore, Mark Brooks, & Joe Suitor's* ***Spider-Man: Back in Quack.***

The Dragon Guard confront an invasion of thousands of creatures deformed by the veil in ***Tales of the Dragon Guard—Into the Veil #1*** by *Ange & Philippe Briones.*

Taskmaster graduates to his own limited series this fall, courtesy of *Fred Van Lente & Jefte Paolo.* Taskmaster has trained henchthugs for every terrorist organization and criminal cartel in the Marvel Universe. So when the rumor starts that he's turned traitor and now works for Steve Rogers, a billion-dollar bounty is put on his head, and every cadre of costumed fanatics—A.I.M., Hydra, Ultimatum, the Sons of the Serpent,

MR. STARK-- WHY THE ARMOR?
THERE'S SOMETHING-- I'VE GOT TO DO--
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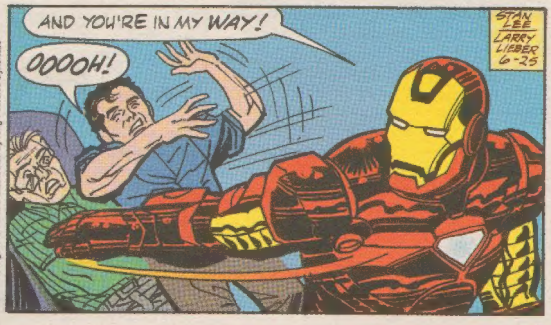


and more—looks to collect. Unfortunately, his survival is complicated by the fact that he doesn't know who he is!

The new creative team of *Matt Fraction & Pasqual Ferry* begin their run in ***Thor #615.*** In the wake of ***Siege***, Asgard must take its proper place as the Golden Realm, most glorious of the nine worlds of myth. But that means Thor's home isn't just a beacon...it's a target! And what happens to the Asgardians and the denizens of all nine worlds -- including Earth! -- when a dark, destructive force from another reality comes on the warpath?

The origin—and first year on Earth—of the God of Thunder is spotlighted in *Bryan J.L. Glass & Tan Eng Huat's* ***Thor: First Thunder.*** Who is the enigmatic Doctor Donald Blake? What is the secret that drives him to travel the world, seeking its challenges, and how does it connect him to the banished Prince of Asgard? Why has Thor been exiled to walk amongst mankind? It's all in here!

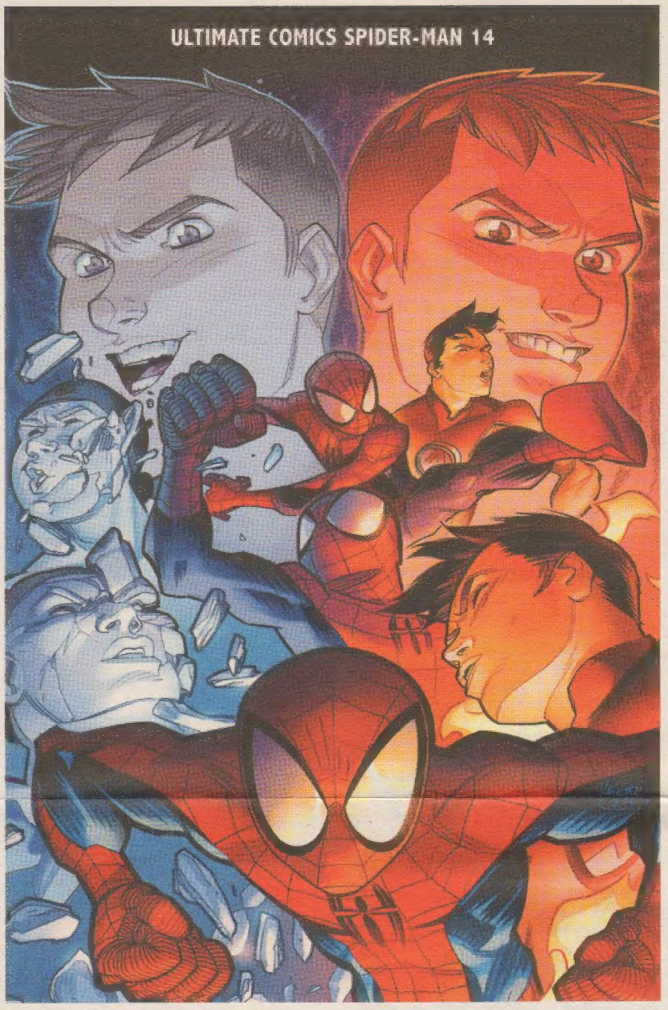
Robert Rodi & Simone Bianchi launch an epic adventure showcasing the God of Thunder in ***Thor: For Asgard.*** The vassals of Asgard are in armed revolt... Odin is missing... Balder is dead... and the entire continent is battered by a years-long winter. How can Thor put the empire back together – especially with his mighty hammer Mjolnir mysteriously denied him?

The Thunderbolts enter the Shadowland fray beginning with ***Thunderbolts #148.*** Luke Cage heads into Hell's Kitchen to pull his old friend back from the brink of madness. And if swarming ninjas aren't enough, he's become aware of other forces that will make his task even harder.

There are vampires *everywhere!* Not only are the X-Men fighting 'em in the Marvel Universe, but the Ultimate Avengers are having to deal with 'em in ***Ultimate Comics Avengers 3 #2*** by *Mark Millar & Steve Dillon.*

Thor's reborn and on a rampage! Finally freed from Hela's clutches, Thor reunites with his teammates in *Jeph Loeb & Frank Cho's* ***Ultimate Comics New Ultimates #4,*** only to discover Loki's wicked betrayal. How will the Ultimates be able to stop an Asgardian gone wild?

The Chameleons have done as much damage to the world of Spider-Man and Peter Parker that could possibly be

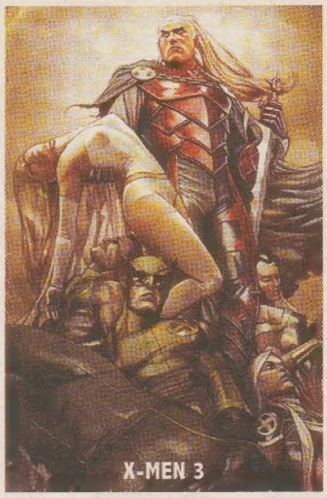


done. They have ruined him. Will his friends come to Peter's aid or will they gang up to bring him down? Find out in *Brian Bendis & David Lafuente's* ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #14.***

Find out how Dock Ock became the multi-armed menace we all know in ***Web of Spider-Man #12.***

Wolverine goes to hell—literally—in ***Wolverine #1*** by *Jason Aaron & Renato Guedes!* Someone's out to destroy Wolverine—permanently—and they may have succeeded. But if Wolverine's soul is in hell, how is his body terrorizing those closest to him? But if you want to get in on the ground floor of this story, be sure to pick up ***Wolverine: The Road to Hell,*** a oneshot that offers preview looks at the big changes coming to ***Wolverine, X-23, Daken,*** and ***X-Force.***

After the events of ***Second Coming*** and the stunning conclusion to ***X-Force,*** X-23 strikes out on her own in the all-new ongoing ***X-23*** by *Marjorie Liu & Will Conrad.* X-23 has never had an easy relationship with the rest of the X-Men, but when she learns someone has taken down Wolverine, she must step up to fill his shoes.

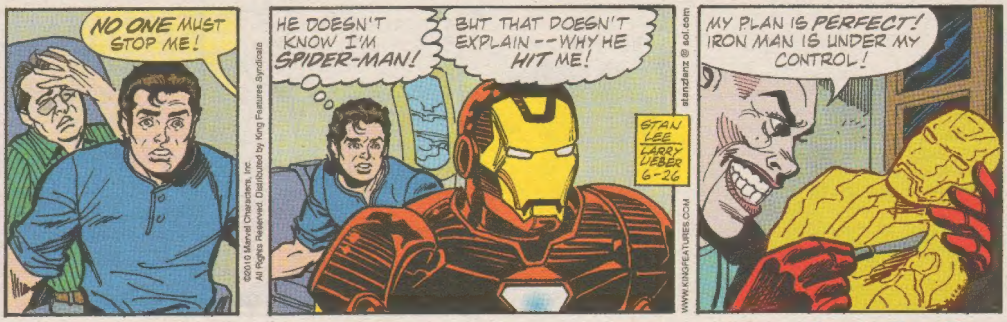


Desperate to find a way to combat the vampire assault, the mutants resurrect Dracula in ***X-Men #3*** by *Victor Gischler & Paco Medina.* Will the former Lord of the Vampires go along with Cyclops' scheme to take down Dracula's upstart son, Xarus?

The battle between the X-Men and the vampires continues in the two-part ***X-Men: Curse of the Mutants—X-Men Vs. Vampires,*** a blend of four brand-new tales and classic reprints; and ***X-Men: Curse of the Mutants—Smoke & Blood,*** which finds the X-Men's Science Team battling an escaped vampire in their own lab.

Marvel collected volumes include:

- ***Acts of Vengeance Omnibus HC,*** collecting the massive 1990s storyline that involved the Avengers, Spider-Man, Cloak and Dagger, the New Warriors, Thor, Captain America, and many others.
- ***Avengers: The Coming of the Beast Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Avengers v1 #s 137-140 & 145-146.***
- ***Black Widow: Deadly Origin TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Cable Volume 4: Homecoming TP,*** collecting ***Cable #s 21-25 & X-Men: Hope.***
- ***Captain America: Reborn TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries.
- ***Captain America: War & Remembrance Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Captain America #s 247-255.***
- ***Civil War: The Underside HC,*** collecting ***Civil War*** tie-in tales from ***Thunderbolts, Moon Knight,*** and other titles.


NO ONE MUST STOP ME!
HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M SPIDER-MAN!
BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN--WHY HE HIT ME!
MY PLAN IS PERFECT! IRON MAN IS UNDER MY CONTROL!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-26
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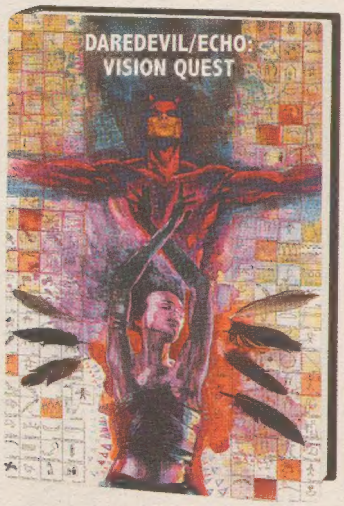
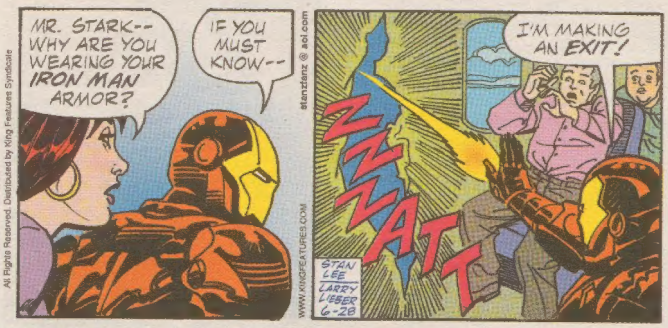
•*Daredevil by Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev Ultimate Collection Book 2 TP,* collecting *Daredevil #s 41-50 & 56-65.*



•*Daredevil/Echo: Vision Quest Premiere HC,* collecting *David Mack's Daredevil #s 51-55.*
•*Dark Tower: The Long Road Home TP,* collecting the five-part miniseries.
•*Deadpool: Merc with a Mouth—Head Trip HC,* collecting *Merc With a Mouth #s 1-13.*
•*Deadpool & Cable: Ultimate Collection Book 3 TP,* collecting *Cable & Deadpool #s 36-50* and more.
•*Franklin Richards: Son of a Genius Ultimate Collection Book 1 TP,* a smaller-trim-size compendium featuring more than 200 pages of Franklin Richards tales.
•*Girl Comics HC,* collecting the three-part miniseries.
•*Halo Uprising TP,* collecting the four-part videogame-inspired miniseries.
•*Heralds HC,* collecting the five-part miniseries.
•*Incredible Hercules: Assault on New Olympus TP,* collecting *Incredible Hercules #s 138-141* and more.
•*Invincible Iron Man Volume 5: Stark Resilient Book 1 Premiere HC,* collecting *Invincible Iron Man #s 25-28.*
•*Iron Man Noir Premiere HC,* collecting the four-part miniseries.
•*Iron Man 2: Public Identity TP,* collecting the three-part miniseries and more.
•*Kabuki Volume 1 HC,* collecting the tales that have been unavailable in hardcover for almost a decade. This 272-page volume features an embossed cover, watermarked end pages, a book mark, a dust jacket with all-new cover art and introduction by comics legend *Jim Steranko.*
•*Lockjaw & The Pet Avengers Unleashed HC,* collecting the four-part miniseries and the *Dogs of Summer* oneshot.
•*Marvel Adventures Avengers: Iron Man Digest,* collecting *Super Heroes #s 1-4.*
•*Marvel Adventures Spider-Man: Amazing Digest,* collecting *Spider-Man #s 1-4.*
•*Marvel Masterworks: The Fantastic Four Volume 4 TP,* collecting *FF #s 31-40 & Annual #2.*
•*Marvel Masterworks: Marvel Team-Up Volume 1 HC,* collecting *Marvel Team-Up #s 1-11.*
•*Marvel Zombies Return TP,* collecting the five-part miniseries.
•*The Mighty Thor Omnibus Volume 1 HC,* collecting the Thor tales from *Journey Into Mystery #s 83-120* and *Annual #1,* complete with letters columns and other bonus features.
•*The 'Nam Volume 2 TP,* collecting *The 'Nam #s 11-20.*
•*New Avengers: Luke Cage—Town Without Pity TP,* collecting the three-part miniseries and more.
•*New Mutants Volume 2: Necrosha TP,* collecting *New Mutants #s 6-10* and more.



PREVIEWS

One Catalog, TONS of Cool Stuff.

From comic books to action figures, games to DVDs, there's something for everyone in the July issue of *PREVIEWS*!

COVER STORY

SUPERMAN: EARTH ONE HC
J. Michael Straczynski and artist Shane Davis present the first ***Earth One*** graphic novel! What would happen if the origin of The Man of Tomorrow were introduced today? Return to Smallville and experience the journey of Earth's favorite adopted son as he grows from boy to Superman like you've never seen before!

GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE #1
The Viltrumite War has depleted the ranks of the ***Guardians of the Globe***... leading to the biggest recruitment drive since Omni-Man slaughtered the original team! But will the new Guardians be ready in time to stop *The Order*? Robert Kirkman and Benito Cereno, and artist Ransom Getty have the answers!

450+ pages of cool stuff that starts shipping in September!

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CHECK THESE OUT IN THE JULY ISSUE:

Buffy the Vampire Slayer #36
Joss Whedon writes the final five issues of ***Buffy Season 8,*** taking his greatest characters to places only *he* can take them! Whedon, and artist Georges Jeanty, begin the countdown to the biggest *Buffy* finale ever — and it all starts right here!

How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less HC
Sarah Glidden's charming and funny travel memoir tells the story of her eventful and enlightening trip through the Middle East, brought to life with lush watercolors in all of their quirky and breathtaking detail.

Machete #0
Get ready for the Grindhouse experience when Robert Rodriguez and company present this special #0 issue that leads into the all-new series beginning in December, telling the origin story of the ultimate "Mexploitation" hero, ***Machete***!

The Walking Dead Compendium Vol. 1 TP
Back In Print! Just in time for the debut of the AMC TV series! The first eight volumes of this fan-favorite series — ***The Walking Dead*** #1-48 — collected into one massive paperback collection! Get it while supplies last... again!

Fantastic Four #583
Artist Steve Epting joins writer Jonathan Hickman's tenure on *Fantastic Four* with "Three", running through *FF* #583-588! The War of Four Cities has begun, and when it's run its course, one member of the Fantastic Four will have breathed their last!

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• ***Oz: The Marvelous Land of Oz HC,*** collecting the eight-part adaptation.
• ***Pride & Prejudice TP,*** a smaller-trim-size collection of the five-part adaptation.
• ***Punisher Noir TP,*** a smaller-trim-size collection of the four-part miniseries.
• ***Raymond E Feist's Magician Master: The Great One Premiere HC,*** collecting the five-part adaptation.
• ***Runaways: Live Fast TP,*** collecting ***Runaways v1 #s 19-24.***
• ***Siege: Dark Avengers Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Dark Avengers #s 13-16 & Dark Avengers Annual.***
• ***Siege: Mighty Avengers Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Mighty Avengers #s 32-36.***
• ***Spider-Man: Fever TP,*** collecting the three-part miniseries and the Silver Age ***Spider-Man Annual #2*** by *Stan Lee & Steve Ditko.*
• ***Spider-Man: The Gauntlet Volume 2—Rhino & Mysterio TP,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 617-621*** and more.
• ***Spider-Man: The Gauntlet Volume 5—The Lizard Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 630-633*** and more.
• ***Stephen King's N Premiere HC,*** collecting the four-part short story adaptation.
• ***Super Hero Squad: Squad Up! Digest,*** collecting more of the young-readers-friendly adventures.
• ***Tomb of Dracula Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Tomb of Dracula #s 13-23*** and more.
• ***Ultimate Comics Iron Man: Armor Wars TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
• ***Ultimate X-Men Ultimate Collection Book 4 TP,*** collecting ***Ultimate X-Men #s 34-45.***
• ***Wolverine: Old Man Logan TP,*** collecting ***Wolverine #s 66-72 & Giant Size Old Man Logan.***
• ***Wolverine: The Reckoning Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Wolverine Origins #s 46-50 & Dark Wolverine #s 85-87.***
• ***X-Men: Second Coming HC,*** collecting the multi-part saga that ran through Marvel's mutant titles this spring and summer.

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in September

Dark Horse's #1 for $1 promotion continues in September with ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #1, Groo #1, Magnus, Robot Fighter #1 (Gold Key), Serenity: Those Left Behind #1, Star Wars: Legacy #1, & Umbrella Academy #1.***

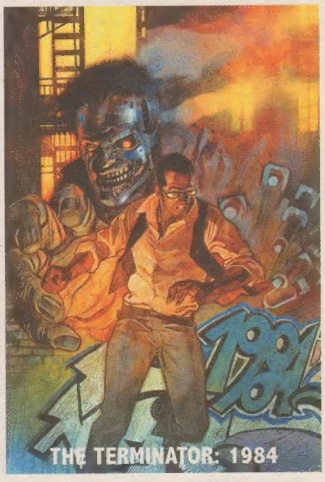
Eric Powell & Kyle Hotz continue the misadventures of Billy the Kid in ***Billy the Kid's Old Timey Oddities & the Ghastly Fiend of London #1,*** the kickoff of a four-part series. This time out, Billy and crew confront their most vicious challenge yet: Jack the Ripper! Each issue includes Goon backups by *Eric Powell*.

Twilight finally stands revealed, and it's tearing the Scoobies apart, testing the limits of their friendship. So what better time for Spike to come back? *Joss Whedon* returns to write "Last Gleaming," the five-part finale of ***Buffy Season 8*** that begins in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #36.***

In *Jim Shooter & Bill Reinhold's* ***Magnus, Robot Fighter #2,*** Magnus invades the stronghold of the "Metal Mob"—human criminals who use robot muscle to plunder and terrorize the city. The cyborg mob enforcer Big Guns and his thugs are all that stands, stands between Magnus and the "Pens," where kidnap victims await ransom—including Leeja Clane and the stunningly beautiful Cinnette, both prime material for the chattel trade.

Michiyo Hayano & POP take on the most famous fairy tale of all in ***Pop Wonderland: Cinderella,*** a 32-page hardcover that adapts the classic tale.

Zack Whedon & Chris Samnee explore one of ***Serenity's*** greatest mysteries in ***Serenity: Shepherd's Tale,*** a 56-page hardcover. Who was Book before meeting Mal and the rest of the ***Serenity*** crew, how did he become one of their most trusted allies... and how did he find God in a bowl of soup? Answers to these and more questions about Book's past are uncovered in this original graphic novel.



After the shocking events he witnessed in humanity's future, Kyle Reese has made the history-changing jump from the year 2029 to a world previously beyond his imagining—1984 Los Angeles. It's a time before the war, before Skynet, but not without danger, as Kyle begins his mission to find and protect Sarah Connor from time-traveling T-800s. Close behind is Kyle's friend Ben, with a crucial mission of his own. ***The Terminator: 1984 #1,*** the first issue of a three-part series by *Zack Whedon & Andy MacDonald,* begin the next chapter of Kyle's journey toward his destiny.

Janet Evanovich & Alex Evanovich continue the original graphic novel adventures of Alex Barnaby and Sam Hooker in ***Troublemaker Book 2 HC.*** Barnaby, Hooker, Rosa, Felicia, and Beans the St. Bernard set sail to the Florida Keys in order to find the wooden body of Baron Samedi that matches their recently acquired (and stolen) wooden hand. But in the world of Petro Voodoo, a hand for a hand and a Baron for a boat is fair play...

Think you've got problems? Meet the patients in Dr. Burton's Wednesday-afternoon support group. Violet carries a jar full of demons. Roger can read minds. Akiko talks with her dead parents through the bathroom mirror. Joe is an exorcist. Brian is pyrokinetic. And then, of course, there's Charles. Meet them and find out why they've been brought together in *Sergio Bleda's* ***The Wednesday Conspiracy TP,*** presented in English for the first time.

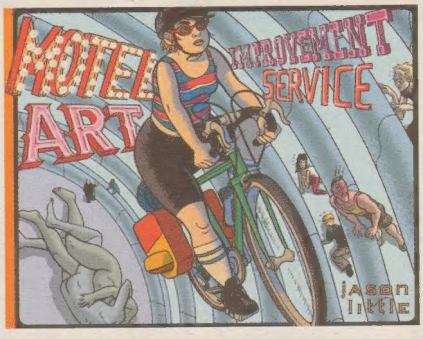
Dark Horse collected volumes include:
• ***The Amazing Screw-On Head and Other Curious Objects HC,*** collecting *Mike Mignola's* award-winning tales ***Amazing Screw-On Head*** and "The Magician & the Snake."
• ***BPRD: King of Fear TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries.
• ***CardCaptor Sakura Omnibus Book 2 TP,*** collecting ***CardCaptor Sakura Vols 4-6.***
• ***Conan Volume 9: Free Companions TP,*** collecting ***Conan the Cimmerian #s 14 & 16-21.***
• ***Frank Miller's Sin City Volume 5: Family Values 3rd Edition TP,*** featuring new cover art by *Frank Miller.*
• ***Frank Miller's Sin City Volume 6: Booze, Broads, & Bullets 3rd Edition TP,*** featuring new cover art by *Frank Miller.*
• ***Frank Miller's Sin City Volume 7: Hell and Back 3rd Edition TP,*** featuring new cover art by *Frank Miller.*
• ***The Goon Volume 4: Virtue and the Grim Consequences Thereof 2nd Edition TP,*** featuring new cover art by *Eric Powell* and a trade dress update to match the other ***Goon*** volumes.
• ***Little Lulu Volume 2: The Burglar-Proof Clubhouse & Other Stories TP,*** collecting ***Little Lulu #s 124-129*** in full color.
• ***Motel Art Improvement Service HC,*** collecting *Jason Little's* webcomic ***Bee.***
• ***Predators TP,*** collecting the film adaptation along with the prequel and sequel tales.
• ***The Savage Sword of Kull Volume One TP,*** collecting tales from ***Savage Tales #2; Savage Sword of Conan #s 2, 3, 9, 23, 34, 42, 43, 55, & 119; Kull and the Barbarians #s 1-3; Savage Sword of Conan Annual #1; Marvel Preview #19,*** and ***Bizarre Adventures #26,*** featuring work by *Roy Thomas, Chuck Dixon, Gerry Conway, Barry Windsor-Smith, Bernie Wrightson, Marie Severin,* and *John Severin.*
• ***Tarzan Archives: The Jesse Marsh Years Volume 7 HC,*** collecting ***Tarzan #s 33-38*** from 1952, featuring stories by *Gaylord DuBois* with art by the incomparable Tarzan artist *Jesse Marsh.*
• ***Turok, Son of Stone Archives Volume 7 HC,*** collecting ***Turok #s 38-43.***

Coming from Dark Horse

The ***60th Anniversary Classic Peanuts Syroco-Style Statue*** line continues with the fifth offering, ***Schroder.*** Each statue is based on the character's original look as he appeared in the early 1950s; the 650-piece offering is packaged in a tin box with a pin-back button and a character booklet.

Yoe! Studios' ***Classic Uncle Scrooge Series 2 Syroco-Style Statue*** line continues with their fifth offering, the must-have ***Uncle Scrooge "Moneybag,"*** based on *Carl Barks'* art for the cover of ***Uncle Scrooge #32.*** Limited to 950 pieces, each statue is packaged in a tin box with a character booklet and a vintage-style pin-back button.

The White Violin, a crucial figure in ***Umbrella Academy: Apocalypse Suite,***



YOU'RE SLICING A HOLE IN THE SIDE OF THE PLANE!
ONE JUST BIG ENOUGH--
ZZZAT!
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is expanded into three dimensions with the release of ***The Umbrella Academy Maquette: White Violin,*** a 10.5" tall limited edition sculpture.

The art of *Frank Miller* is given premiere treatment in the high-quality 24 " x 36" ***Xerxes Lithograph,*** available in a standard edition and a signed and numbered edition, and limited to only 100 copies. This collector-quality, fine-art piece is presented on acid-free paper with two special types of coating to enhance golds and background color, and offers a first look at the subject of Miller's upcoming comics prequel to his record-breaking ***300***. The litho is colored by Eisner Award–winning colorist *Dave Stewart*.

Coming Comics—Dynamite in September

Having learned a certain unpleasant truth, Hughie sets out to discover just how dangerous things will now be for the Boys in *Garth Ennis's* ***The Boys #46,*** illustrated by *Russ Braun*. Butcher, meanwhile, gives Hughie the scoop on one of the team's highest-placed informants... but the most dreadful secret of all is still to come, in part three of "Believe."

Meanwhile, Hughie's trip back home goes less well than he anticipated in ***The Boys: Highland Laddie #2*** by the incomparable team of *Garth Ennis & John McCrea*. The youthful successes of Hughie's s junior detective operation with Big Bobby and Det were few and far between—but is there a connection between their oldest case and the shadowy outfit now moving narcotics through the idyllic town of Auchterladle?

While Randal Six desperately tries to solve the puzzle of his escape and Deucalion's advice is sought in the pursuit of the rogue Detective Harker, Victor returns home to discover his telekinetic experiment Karloff dead. Find out how it happened in ***Dean Koontz' Frankenstein: Prodigal Son Vol. 2 #3*** by *Dean Koontz, Chuck Dixon, & Scott Cohn*.

Jai Nitz & Nigel Raynor continue to delve into the secret origins of Kato and Britt Reid in ***Green Hornet: Parallel Lives #3,*** an original prequel to the upcoming *Seth Rogen* film.

Matt Wagner & Aaron Campbell bring their first arc to a close in ***Green Hornet Year One #6.*** Set in the golden age of comics and history, this tale presents the origin of the Golden Age Hornet and Kato.

Acclaimed filmmakers *John Moore & Richie Smyth* present the story of Colonel John Donner, aka John Doe, in ***John Moore Presents Dead Soldier #1.*** In the last days of World War One, a small company of American soldiers fights to the last man against a powerful German offensive. Donner, the only American survivor of the attack, is transformed into a creature of unthinkable power, a monster who pledges he will avenge the deaths of his fallen comrades, in this compelling tale.

In *Kevin Smith & Jonathan Lau's* ***Kevin Smith's Green Hornet #7,*** the New Green Hornet and Kato renew their fathers' war on crime—but even as they clean up the streets of Century City, the Black Hornet musters his forces for a final confrontation with the gang-busting duo. Meanwhile, Britt Reid assumes his father's role as publisher of The Sentinel and quickly uncovers a plot to unleash a hellish new war machine that will imperil not only his city, but the world. Fighting a war on two fronts, the young Green Hornet reaches his breaking point.

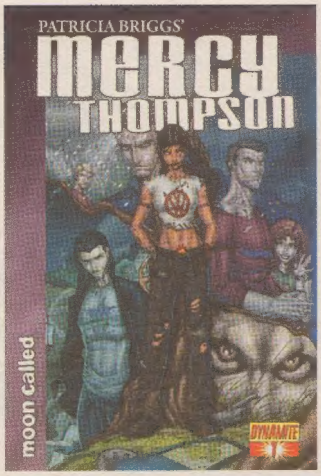
Having squared off against Black Hornet in Japan, the new Kato travels to the states to continue the battle against the man who killed her mother in ***Kevin Smith's Kato #6*** by *Ande Parks & Diego Bernard*.

L.A. Banks' original continuation of the ***Vampire Huntress*** series picks up where the twelfth and final volume left off. In ***L.A. Banks' Vampire Huntress #3,*** it appears that the Neterus' and the Neteru Guardians' old nemeses are back. Carlos and Damali have found something at the site of one of the more tragic death scenes that leads them to a new demonic lair. However, the question is, will this new discovery injure the newly pregnant Damali and the twins she is carrying?

Kit Walker's war with a group of mass-murdering mercenaries continues in ***The Last Phantom #2*** by *Scott Beatty, Eduardo Ferigato, & Alex Ross*. Does The Last Phantom stand a ghost of a chance against high-tech hired guns who can disappear at will?

The Lone Ranger and Cavendish finally come face-to-face in ***The Lone Ranger #24*** by *Brett Matthews & Sergio Carriello*.

Patricia Briggs' shape-shifting heroine returns to comics in ***Patricia Briggs' Mercy Thompson: Moon Called #1,*** an adaptation of the first ***Mercy Thompson*** novel brought to comics by Briggs with *David Lawrence* and illustrated by *Amelia Woo*. The book focuses on a heroine who inhabits two worlds: not only is she a female mechanic operating her own garage in Tri-Cities, but she's also an occult heroine with the ability to become a coyote. ***Moon Called*** begins when a boy is assaulted by vicious werewolves; he comes to Mercy for help, but she may find herself



outnumbered and out-muscled.

Writer *Eric Trautman* joins the creative team with ***Red Sonja #53.***

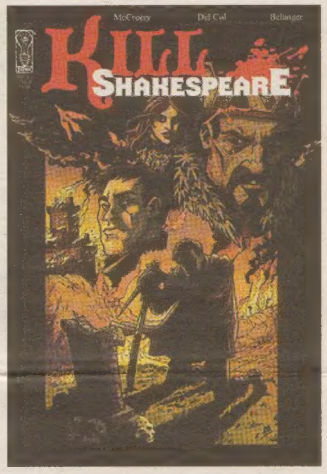
Stuart Moore & Siddharth Kotian present a kung-fu action thriller set in the Alaskan wilderness in ***A Thousand Arts.*** It begins when an archeological dig uncovers proof that a lost civilization of ancient Chinese that once thrived in North America—and it also uncovers a lost trove of centuries-old hidden martial arts knowledge. When an assassins guild attempts to steal this newfound power, the last living descendant of the original monks must protect his people's secrets and become the master of a thousand arts.

Dynamite collected volumes (advance solicited for October & November release) include:

- ***Battlefields Volume 5: Firefly & His Majesty TP,*** collecting ***Garth Ennis' Battlefields #s 4-6.***
- ***The Boys Signed Definitive Edition Volume 2 HC,*** signed by *Darick Robertson*.
- ***Deepak Chopra Presents Buddha—A Tale of Enlightenment HC,*** collecting the miniseries originally published by Virgin Comics.
- ***Dresden Files: Storm Front Volume 2 HC,*** collecting the final half of the adaptation of *Jim Butcher's* ***Storm Front*** novel.
- ***George R.R. Martin's Wild Cards: The Hard Call HC,*** collecting the miniseries set in the world of the novels edited by George R. R. Martin.
- ***Kevin Smith's Kato—Not My Father's Daughter TP,*** collecting ***Kevin Smith's Kato #s 1-5,*** along with a complete cover gallery.
- ***The Legendary Talespinners TP,*** collecting the three-issue fantasy series created by *Jim Kuhoric*.
- ***Red Sonja: Wrath of the Gods Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries.
- ***Vampirella Archive Volume 1 HC,*** collecting the first seven issues of the Warren Magazine, featuring work by *Frank Frazetta, Tom Sutton, Neal Adams, Jeffrey Jones, Billy Graham, Don Glut, Forrest J. Ackerman,* and many others.
- ***Vampirella Masters Series Volume 1: Grant Morrison & Mark Millar TP,*** collecting "Ascending Evil" from ***Vampirella Monthly #1-3,*** "Holy War" from ***Vampirella Monthly #4-6,*** "Blood Red Game" from the ***Vampirella 25th Anniversary Special,*** and "Cold Day In Hell" from ***Vampirella Strikes #6.***

CSNsider

- Marvel has announced that ***Astonishing Spider-Man/Wolverine,*** previously announced as an ongoing, is now slated to be a five-issue limited series.



- IDW's sold-out ***Kill Shakespeare #s 1 & 2*** are coming back into print in the ***Kill Shakespeare Bumper Edition,*** a $5.99 volume collecting both comics in a single 64-page volume. Look for it in early July.
- WizKids/NECA is following up their recently-released ***DC HeroClix Blackest Night*** set with the ***DC HeroClix Brightest Day Action Pack.*** The action pack includes seven new ***Brightest Day*** figures, including Aquaman and Osiris, along with a new double-sided HeroClix map. Look for it in October.

twitter.com/csnsider

IRON MAN TORE A HOLE IN THE FUSELAGE.
GOTTA PLUG IT--FAST! BEFORE ANYONE FALLS THROUGH!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-30
Colors: Ward Batty
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